



Urban District of Rothwell.

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Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(A. L. TAYLOR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H.)

AND THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR

(T. WILSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.)

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1944



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# Rothwell Urban District Council.

## ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT.

### STATISTICAL MEMORANDA FOR 1944.

Area in Acres	..	..	..	..	..	..	10,695
Resident Population (Mid-Year 1944)	..	..	..	..	..	..	22,870
Number of Inhabited Houses in District at end of 1944	..	..	..	..	..	..	6,868
Rateable Value to General Rate on 1st April, 1944	..	..	..	..	..	..	£102,741
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	..	..	..	..	..	..	£400

#### BIRTHS (LIVE).

Legitimate—206 Males, 205 Females }	..	..	..	..	..	425
Illegitimate— 5 Males, 9 Females }	..	..	..	..	..	

#### STILLBIRTHS.

Legitimate —9 Males, 4 Females }	..	..	..	..	..	14
Illegitimate—1 Male, 0 Female }	..	..	..	..	..	

DEATHS	..	145 Males, 132 Females	..	..	..	277
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population (Mid-year 1944)	..	..	..	..	..	18.58
Stillbirths Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	..	..	..	..	..	31.89
Death Rate per 1,000 population	..	..	..	..	..	12.11

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.						Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 (Live and Still) Births
Puerperal Sepsis	..	..	..	..	..	0	0.0
Other Puerperal Causes	..	..	..	..	..	0	0.0
Total	..	..	..	..	..	0	0.0

#### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births	..	..	..	..	..	40.00
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 Legitimate Live Births	..	..	..	..	..	38.92
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 Illegitimate Live Births	..	..	..	..	..	71.42

### RECORD OF DEATHS IN AGE GROUPS, 1944.

Under 1 year.	1-5 years.	5-15 years.	15-25 years.	25-45 years.	45-65 years.	Over 65 years.	Total.
17	1	8	11	21	67	152	277

No unusual or excessive mortality during the year.

### STAFF OF HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

A. L. TAYLOR, M.D., Ch.B., D.P.H. . .	Medical Officer of Health. Medical Superintendent of the Roth- well Isolation Hospital. Medical Officer, Maternity and Child Welfare Services.
T. WILSON, Cert. S.I.B., A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Certified Meat Inspector, Certified Smoke Inspector.	Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent.
R. A. NAYLOR, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Assoc. Inst. Hygiene	Additional Sanitary Inspector.
Miss M. CAMERON, State Registered Nurse, S.C.M., C.R.S.I.	Superintendent Health Visitor.
Miss E. ABRAM, Certified Midwife..	Health Visitor.
Miss K. HALSTEAD, State Registered Nurse, S.C.M., C.R.S.I. (From 15.9.41. to 11.2.44)	Health Visitor.
Miss D. DAWSON, State Registered Nurse, S.C.M., C.R.S.I. (From 1.2.43 to 5.5.44)	Health Visitor.
Miss E. RYAN, State Registered Nurse, C.R.S.I., Part I of Mid- wifery (From 8.5.44)	Health Visitor.
Miss M. SMALES, State Registered Nurse, C.R.S.I., Part I of Mid- wifery. (From 1.10.44)	Health Visitor.
Miss M. WHITTINGHAM .. ..	Clerk.
Mrs. I. M. GIBSON .. ..	Clerk (M. & C.W. Dept.)
K. R. Lawson. (From 7.3.44, ..	Junior Clerk.

# Rothwell Urban District Council

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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1944.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the*

*Rothwell Urban District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report for the twelve months ended December 31st, 1944.

The necessity for economy still makes it essential that only the bare outlines of the work done should be printed and that as little comment as possible should be included.

It is gratifying to note that once again the incidence of Infectious Disease has been relatively slight and that no epidemics have occurred during the year. Diphtheria incidence remains at a low level.

The incidence of Scabies, though not high, continues to be a factor which cannot be neglected, but there is no evidence to show that the condition is on the increase.

The demand for institutional accommodation for maternity cases continues to be insistent and we have been fortunate in being able to meet it to a large extent by the continued use of Walton Hall Maternity Home and also, towards the end of the year, to find accommodation for certain classes of cases at the newly reorganised County General Hospital at Wakefield.

The war-time Nurseries at Stourton and Rothwell continue to serve a useful function, although it is notable that the attendances at Stourton are far in excess of those at Rothwell, presumably because of the different industrial conditions prevailing in the Stourton Area.



Housing still remains an extremely unsatisfactory feature and provision of new construction has not yet been started. In this, of course, we are in line with the rest of the country, but this unfortunately does not diminish the urgency of the need.

Once again the Birth Rate shows an increase to 18.58 as compared with the figures of 16.50 and 14.34 for 1943 and 1942 respectively. The Death Rate shows a slight increase to 12.11, though this cannot be considered in any way excessive.

Matters regarding Cleansing, Disinfestation and Salvage will be dealt with in the Report of the Senior Sanitary Inspector.

### **MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.**

The health and welfare of the children of the area remain at a gratifyingly high level. The attendances at the Clinics have been satisfactorily maintained and the percentage of defects found on routine examination is very low. It is desirable to stress once more the importance of adequate doses of Cod Liver Oil or its equivalent. It is found that orange juice is enthusiastically accepted by all mothers without exception, but that considerably less enthusiasm is displayed for Cod Liver Oil. Furthermore, there is a tendency on the part of some mothers to make perhaps insufficient effort to accustom their children to the taste of Cod Liver Oil, or because the child displays an initial aversion to the taste, to stop trying to give him any at all. It is impossible to overstress the need for adequate intake of vitamins when so much of the present day diet is, to some extent, deficient in these. The vitamin contained in Cod Liver Oil is vitally necessary for proper bone formation and if, after due trial the child is unable or unwilling to tolerate the intake of Cod Liver Oil, substitutes can be obtained at the Clinics which, though slightly more costly are much easier to administer, and will serve the same purpose quite adequately. Rather too often one discovers, often by accident, that cod liver oil, though supplied by the Clinic, is not being taken by the child, with consequent detrimental effects on his skeletal development.

In spite of the foregoing little homily, however, the vast bulk of our youngsters are of excellent nutritional standard and it is interesting to note that the normal weight of a year-old baby, for so long regarded as being about 19 or 20 pounds, now seems to be in the region of 22 or 23 pounds, this latter weight being recorded in instance after instance on our record cards,

TABLE 1.

**CLINIC ATTENDANCES IN AGE GROUPS SHOWING  
AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE AT FIVE CLINICS.**

Clinic	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	Total	Average Weekly Attendance
Rothwell ..	2,318	644	539	3,501	72.92
Lofthouse ..	1,043	408	570	2,021	39.33
Stourton ..	940	434	125	1,499	31.22
Oulton ..	902	354	289	1,545	32.18
Methley ..	1,625	487	297	2,409	48.10
Total ..	6,828	2,327	1,820	10,975	223.75

TABLE 1a.

**INDIVIDUAL CHILDREN IN CLINIC ATTENDANCE DURING  
1944.**

Clinic	Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	Total
Rothwell .. ..	149	114	171	434
Lofthouse .. ..	69	58	109	236
Stourton .. ..	51	46	49	146
Oulton .. ..	51	49	74	174
Methley .. ..	71	68	84	223
Total .. ..	391	335	487	1,213

TABLE 1b.

**NEW CLINIC ENTRANTS DURING 1944.**

Clinic.	Under 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	Total.
Rothwell .. ..	164	12	11	187
Lofthouse .. ..	79	5	6	90
Stourton .. ..	60	4	2	66
Oulton .. ..	53	4	1	58
Methley .. ..	73	1	3	77
Total .. ..	429	16	23	468

**TABLE 1c.**

**No. OF CHILDREN (BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS) IN AREA 31st DECEMBER, 1944, WITH PROPORTION OF CLINIC ATTENDERS.**

Age.	No. of Children in Rothwell Area.	No. of Children in Clinic Attendance.	Percentage of Children in Clinic Attendance.	
Under 1 year .. ..	395	391	(A) 98·98	(B) 92·15
1-2 years .. ..	346	335	96·82	88·72
2-5 years .. ..	1,118	487	43·55	41·94

(A) Including 73 Evacuees and Visitors who attended the Clinics from other areas.

(B) Not including the Evacuees and Visitors.

**TABLE 2.**

**MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS OF CHILDREN DURING 1944.**

Birth to 1 year.	1-2 years.	2-5 years.	Total.
1,312	685	407	2,404

**TABLE 3.**

**PARTICULARS OF DEFECTIVE CHILDREN IN CLINIC ATTENDANCE DURING 1944.**

Age.	No. of Children in Clinic Attendance	No. of Children found to be Defective.	Percentage of Children in Clinic attendance found to be defective.
Under one year ..	391	15	3·8
One to two years..	335	6	1·7
Two to five years	487	12	2·4
Total—Birth to five years .. ..	1,213	33	2·7

Once again the inestimable benefits of Ultra Violet Ray treatment in the Sunray Clinics must be noted. Ultra Violet irradiations have a little understood but indisputably good effect on growing tissues, and the child who is pale, flabby, cross, of capricious appetite,



or generally a "bad doer" improves visibly and rapidly under treatment; weight increases, frequently by several pounds in a few weeks and the mother reports improvement in appetite, sleep and temper, and a general brightening of the child's whole mental and physical make-up. The Sunray Clinic I count as one of the most valuable of all the Services provided by this Authority.

**TABLE 4.**  
**RECORD OF SUNRAY WORK DURING 1944.**

No. of Sessions	No. of Treatments given	No. of individual Children treated.				No. of Mothers treated	Total	Average Attendance per Session
		Under 1 year	1-2 years	2-5 years	School Children			
147	3,280*	6	63	84	50	8	211	22.3

\*Including 859 treatments given to the 50 School children (5.8 per session) in accordance with arrangement with the West Riding County Council.

### RESCUE SERVICES.

Hospital treatment for all emergency maternity cases.

Hospital treatment for cases in which housing conditions are undesirable.

Hospital provision (free) for all cases of Puerperal Pyrexia.

Ambulance free in all above cases.

Consultation at home with Specialist in cases of abnormalities, arising ante-natal, post-natal, or during labour.

Consultative Ante-Natal Clinic with Specialist in attendance.

Child Welfare, ante-natal and post-natal Services (under our own control) with Medical and Health Visiting Staff.

Provision (free) for X-ray examination of maternity cases of dubious diagnosis.

Immunisation (Diphtheria) Clinic.

Home consultation with Ophthalmic Specialist in emergency cases.

Hospital provision for cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Orthopaedic hospital provision for children under five.

Provision of dental treatment for expectant and nursing mothers.

Provision of dental treatment for children under five.

**Assisted Scheme.**—Grants of dried milks and Cod Liver Oil, at reduced terms in accordance with income.

Provision of Sunray treatment for debilitated children under five and for expectant Mothers.

Home Helps.

**Convalescent Home Provision for Debilitated Mothers and their Infants and for Children under Five.**—These services were not available during 1944, as the Homes have been closed owing to the War.

**Health Visitors.**—Further changes were made in the Health Visiting Staff during 1944, two Health Visitors being appointed to fill vacancies created during the same year.

**Child Life Protection.**—At the end of 1944 there were three foster-mothers who were nursing children for reward in this area.

**Dental Treatment for Children under Five and for Expectant and Nursing Mothers.**—Under arrangement with the West Riding County Council Dental Service, the Maternity and Child Welfare Authority of this district provides dental treatment for children under five years, and likewise for expectant and nursing mothers when such treatment is deemed necessary.

**Ophthalmic Service.**—Provision is made for home consultation with Ophthalmic Specialist in emergency cases and hospital treatment is available for all cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

**Orthopædic Provision.**—Orthopædic Hospital provision is available for children under five.

**Contributory Payments towards Bus Fares.**—In the case of women attending the Ante-Natal Clinics, contributory payments are made by the Authority towards the cost of bus fares.

**Nursing Homes.**—No Nursing Homes have been registered in this district and no action has been found necessary.

## INFANT MORTALITY.

### Stillbirths and Neo-Natal Deaths.

The Infantile Mortality Rate showed a slight decrease to 40·0 per thousand live births, and this trend, though slight, is nevertheless a source of satisfaction. It is generally conceded that the Infantile Mortality Rate is the most sensitive index to the social and economic conditions of a community and as a matter of interest, I am this year including a Table setting out the Mortality Rates for the four decades from 1903 up to the present date. It will be realised, of course, that in dealing with comparatively small birth totals, occasional large fluctuations are to be expected, due to chance circumstances, but by averaging the figures in ten-year groups, it will readily be seen how consistently and steadily the Infantile Mortality Rate has improved during the last forty years, until now it is less than one-third of its 1903-1912 total.

TABLE 5  
DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 wk.		1-2 weeks.		2-3 weeks.		3-4 weeks.		1-3 mths.		3-6 mths.		6-9 mths.		9-12 mths.		Total.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Congenital Debility and premature birth .. ..	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	2
Cerebral Hæmorrhage .. ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Bronchiolitis																		
Asphyxia .. ..	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Meningitis .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bronchitis (Con- genital Heart) ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Convulsions,																		
Mongolism .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Atalectasis following																		
Asphyxia at birth	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Acute Broncho- Pneumonia .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Convulsions .. ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Convulsions and																		
Premature birth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Exhaustion, Capil- lary Bronchitis ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Convulsions, Capil- lary Bronchitis ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Total .. ..	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	9	8

TABLE 6.  
INFANT DEATHS PER THOUSAND LIVE BIRTHS.

1903-1912		1913-1922		1923-1932		1933-1942		1943-1944	
1903	171	1913	139	1923	82	1933	77·8	1943	42·2
1904	145	1914	120	1924	112	1934	50	1944	40·0
1905	161	1915	125	1925	72	1935	38	—	—
1906	121	1916	85	1926	74·2	1936	57	—	—
1907	140	1917	142	1927	65	1937	68	—	—
1908	148	1918	84	1928	71·7	1938	65	—	—
1909	112	1919	61	1929	89·3	1939	42·4	—	—
1910	133	1920	83	1930	31	1940	43	—	—
1911	116	1921	86	1931	72·2	1941	50·8	—	—
1912	58	1922	90	1932	40·9	1942	37·2	—	—
Average— 130·5		Average— 101·5		Average— 71·0		Average— 52·9		Average— 41·1	



The following small tables deal with the comparison of stillbirths and neo-natal deaths, during the past four years :—

**TABLE 7a.**

**DETAILS OF STILL-BIRTHS  
FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS.**

Year.	No. of Live Births.	No. of Still-births.	Proportion of Still-births per 100 Live Births.
1941	334	18	5.4
1942	349	11	3.15
1943	379	7	1.84
1944	425	14	3.27

**TABLE 7b.**

**DETAILS OF NEO-NATAL  
DEATHS FOR THE PAST  
FOUR YEARS.**

Year.	No. of Live Births.	No. of Neo-Natal Deaths.	Proportion of Neo-Natal Deaths per 100 Live Births.
1941	334	9	2.1
1942	349	13	3.7
1943	379	16	4.22
1944	425	17	4.00

As a commentary on the child health of this district it will be noted that only one death occurred in the 1-5 years age group, this being due to accident and not to illness. This is in striking contrast to the year 1913, when, with the much smaller population of 15,000, 23 deaths were recorded between the ages of 1 year and 5.

**War Time Nurseries.**—War Time Nurseries are doing an extremely good service to the community in caring for the children of mothers who go out to work. The staffs have gained the confidence of the parents and a happy spirit of co-operation exists. The children show great improvement in physical and mental development and the provisions of organised play and early instruction in personal hygiene and good habits, are of inestimable value in helping to mould the characters of these youngsters during their most impressionable years. I am of the opinion that, suitably staffed and run, these Nurseries form a contribution of great value to our social structure and that whilst in no way being a substitute for an ideal home life, they, nevertheless, serve to augment and supplement the inculcation of desirable habits of hygiene and occupation which are essential as a foundation for physical and mental health.

**ANTE-NATAL CLINICS AND MATERNAL WELFARE.**

Once again it is satisfactory to note that no maternal death occurred during the year. The district Mortality Rate was, therefore, 0.0 per thousand live births and the average Maternal Mortality Rate for the five years' period 1940 to 1944 inclusive was 0.51.



## II

Attendances at Ante-Natal Clinics were well maintained and many deviations from normal were recognised and dealt with before they could become a menace to maternal health or to the chances of neo-natal infantile survival.

Table 9 sets out the abnormal findings encountered and serves to point the moral of regular ante-natal supervision as a means of recognising and correcting undesirable conditions or trends at the earliest possible moment and when it is not too late to repair the damage.

It will be seen that Heart Disease still forms an appreciable percentage of defects found and, as I stated in an earlier Report, is a significant commentary on the widespread incidence of Rheumatism in the community.

**TABLE 8.**  
**DETAILS OF ATTENDANCES AT ANTE-NATAL CLINICS**  
**DURING 1944.**

Clinic.	Total No. of Expectant Mothers Attending.		Primiparae	Multiparae.	No. of Sessions held.	Average attendance per session.	Gross total of Attendances.	Percentage of notified births in Clinic attendance.
	New Cases	Old Cases						
Rothwell	237†	89	82	150	102	18.8	1,925	83.5*
Methley	15	14	4	11	24	4.8	114	
TOTALS	252	103	86	161	126		2,039	

\* Inclusive of 103 cases carried over from 1943.

† Inclusive of 5 cases not pregnant

NOTE.—During 1944, the actual number of new cases in Ante-Natal Clinic attendance was 252—equivalent to 59 per cent. of the notified births.

**TABLE 8a.**  
**PERIOD OF PREGNANCY AT WHICH FIRST ATTENDANCE**  
**(1944) TOOK PLACE.**

1st month	2nd month	3rd month	4th month	5th month	6th month	7th month	8th month	9th month	Not Pregnant	Total.
2	21	54	67	47	31	18	6	1	5	252

TABLE 9.

### DEVIATIONS FROM NORMAL DETECTED DURING ANTE-NATAL CLINIC EXAMINATIONS.

Heart Disease (various forms)	9	Congenital Lues	.. ..	1
Hypertension .. ..	8	Pre-Eclampsia, Trichonoma		
Breech Presentation (external version) .. ..	12	Vaginitis and Disproportion		1
Breech Presentation (external version) and disproportion	2	Pre-Eclampsia .. ..		4
Breech Presentation (external version) and slight degree of prolapse .. ..	1	Chronic Bronchitis .. ..		1
Breech Presentation (external version) and severe varicose veins .. ..	1	Cystocele .. ..		1
Pyelitis .. ..	3	Oedema of Feet .. ..		1
Pyelitis and Vaginitis ..	1	Ante-Partum Hæmorrhage ..		1
Varicose Veins .. ..	4	Disproportion .. ..		1
Vulval Varicosities .. ..	1	Kyphosis and Scoliosis with flat pelvis .. ..		1
Vaginal Discharge .. ..	1	Habitual Miscarriages .. ..		1
Bartholinitis and Vaginitis ..	1	Frequent Abortions .. ..		1
Disseminated Sclerosis ..	1	Anæmia (severe) .. ..		5
Hyperemesis .. ..	1	Hypochromic Anæmia .. ..		1
		Pulmonary Tuberculosis ..		1
		Total .. ..		67

Equivalent to 18.8 per cent. of 355 Expectant Mothers attending.

TABLE 10.

### CONFINEMENT HISTORY OF THE CASES IN ANTE-NATAL CLINIC ATTENDANCE DURING 1944.

Normal deliveries .. ..	217	Abnormal Deliveries at home	11
Not Pregnant .. ..	5	Abnormal Deliveries in Hospital	15
Left the area prior to delivery, no confinement history obtainable .. ..	4	Due for Delivery in 1945 ..	103

**Puerperal Pyrexia.**—Only one case of Puerperal Pyrexia was notified during the year and this made an uneventful recovery.

As already stated, the extremely unsatisfactory housing conditions prevailing are reflected in the constant demand by expectant mothers for institutional accommodation for their confinements. If housing conditions are satisfactory, and adequate domestic help is available, domiciliary confinements in normal cases must be considered quite satisfactory, but at the present time so many expectant mothers are living in lodgings, or with their own parents or in-laws, or in hopelessly overcrowded or unsuitable premises, that there is no doubt as to the crying need for facilities which make the birth of the child a less hazardous matter than would be the case under their existing circumstances,

In this area we are extremely fortunate in having within a reasonable distance the Leeds Maternity Hospital, to which abnormal cases and emergencies can be sent; in having the Walton Hall Maternity Home which will admit normal obstetrical cases, and, more recently, in having available a third institution, namely, the County General Hospital at Wakefield which, medically staffed, has now a sixteen bedded maternity unit and which is prepared to admit all classes of maternity case and can give them medical and consultant obstetrical care whenever needed. All over the country the trend is towards Maternity Home or Hospital confinements and as I have already said, under existing housing conditions there is very much to be said for this procedure

Last year I stressed the need for new and adequate branch Clinic premises and, of course, this need still obtains. When it can be met, of course, no one can foresee, but I shall consider it my duty to keep it constantly in the mind of those whose responsibility it is adequately to house the vitally important Maternity and Child Welfare Service.

Once again I should like to acknowledge the unfailingly enthusiastic services of Miss Cameron who, as ever, has been a tower of strength throughout the year. To the staff of Health Visitors too I should like to give a word of appreciation for the way in which they have carried out their duties in spite of increasing travelling difficulties, which make work in a scattered area such as this, so difficult a matter.

Once again I should like to record my appreciation of the quiet and unobtrusive help given by the Voluntary Helpers at the Child Welfare Clinics. Without their willing co-operation the smooth running of Clinic routine would be well-nigh impossible.

**TABLE 11.**  
**RECORD OF HOME VISITATION.**

First Visits (under one year)	..	..	..	432
Re-visits (under one year)	..	..	..	2,897
One to two years	..	..	..	3,072
Two to five years	..	..	..	8,312
Ante-Natal First Visits	..	..	..	98
Ante-Natal Re-Visits	..	..	..	291
Total Home Visits				17,416
Total Clinic Sessions held during 1944 :—				
Infant Welfare	..	..	..	242
Ultra Violet Ray	..	..	..	147
Ante-Natal	..	..	..	126
Dental Sessions	..	..	..	—
Consultative Ante-Natal Sessions	..	..	..	7
				522



## HOME HELP CASES, 1944.

Total number of cases attended by Home Help

14

## HEALTH ADMINISTRATION.

**Laboratory Facilities.**—Acknowledgment is again due for the ever-ready assistance afforded at all times by the County Medical Officer and his staff. Many bacteriological investigations have been referred to them during the year and on all occasions most helpful and prompt co-operation has been forthcoming.

**Ambulance Facilities.**—(a) For Infectious Disease. (b) Non-Infectious Disease and Accidents. An approved scale of charges is in operation for the latter.

Occasional use has again been made of Civil Defence ambulances, although the imminent dissolution of the Civil Defence Services will mark an end to these ancillary facilities which we have found so useful. Again I should like to suggest the need for increased ambulance facilities as soon as practicable.

**Nursing Provision.**—This is provided by Voluntary Nursing Associations, and three nurses are available for the nursing of diseases of types not eligible for treatment in the Isolation Hospital.

### Treatment Centres and Clinics, including Clinics used solely for Diagnosis or Consultation :—

- (a) Five Welfare Clinics ; one, the Central Clinic, at Rothwell, and one each at Stourton, Lofthouse, Methley and Oulton.
- (b) Ante-Natal Clinic held twice weekly at the Central Clinic, and fortnightly at the Methley Clinic.
- (c) Post-Natal Clinic held weekly at the Central Clinic.
- (d) Staff of four Health Visitors, one being the Supervisory Head.
- (e) Panel of Home Helps.
- (f) Scabies Clinic. Treatment has been given throughout the year at the Rothwell First Aid Post.

**Hospitals—Public and Voluntary.**—The Council maintains its own Hospital for the Isolation and treatment of Infectious Disease.

## WATER SUPPLY.

The water supply for the district has been obtained in the following amounts from the under-mentioned Local Authorities during the year :—

Leeds Corporation ..	..	240,256,000	gallons.
Morley Corporation ..	..	23,868,000	„
Wakefield Corporation ..	..	17,801,000	„



Of this quantity, 125,534,000 gallons were used for trade purposes and the balance of 156,391,000 gallons was allocated to domestic purposes and leakage respectively

The average daily consumption per head for domestic purposes was 18·0 gallons and, for trade purposes 14·4 gallons.

A measure instituted during war-time and which seems likely to be continued post-war, is the checking of the water supply by chemical and bacteriological examination, a chemical and a bacteriological sample being taken from each main supply every quarter, different houses being visited on each occasion. Special samples are taken as the occasion demands it. In all, 27 samples, 13 chemical and 14 bacteriological, were taken during the year, and of these only two bacteriological samples were reported as suspicious, and these, on resampling, were found to be in order.

In addition to the general water supply, seven houses in remote parts of the district are supplied with water from three wells, all of which have been improved to the Council's requirements. A block of four houses, which was supplied by a well found, in 1943, to be unsatisfactory, has been supplied with towns' water delivered by Council vehicles. The houses in question are condemned and two were, during the currency of the year, vacated, and the others are likely to be so during 1945.

**Drainage and Sewerage.**—No changes have been made in the drainage and sewerage systems during the year, but attention has been paid to certain lengths of sewers which now do not function properly owing to mining subsidence.

**Rivers and Streams.**—No action necessary during the year.

**Closet accommodation.**—Details of conversions and improvements will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**Public Cleansing.**—I would refer you to the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**Shops and Offices.**—No statutory action has been found necessary but routine inspection is carried out.

**Camping Sites.**—See Sanitary Inspector's Report.

**Smoke Abatement.**—All action has been suspended for the duration of the war.

**Swimming Baths and Pools.**—No Public Baths in this Area.

**Eradication of Bed Bugs.**—Disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority as previously. There has been a marked decrease in the number of premises disinfested (see Inspector's Report) but

this is due, I think, to the lack of interest on the part of the tenants, who have generally more weighty things with which to concern themselves, rather than the fact that there are less bugs in the district, and it is anticipated when times become normal, there will be more reports and action taken.

### HOUSING.

Housing is still a matter of grave anxiety to all concerned, and those responsible for the provision of new construction have a most unenviable task. I am inundated with appeals for help from persons unsuitably housed or even totally lacking in accommodation. These appeals, however urgent, are almost impossible to meet, and many pathetic stories come to light illustrating the conditions under which a great many of our people are existing. I am, however, convinced that this Authority yields place to none in the vigour with which it is pursuing its housing plans, and I am confident that progress will be as rapid as conditions will permit.

One individual unfit house was represented during the year, the Demolition Order not being made until 1945.

Five houses which were vacated prior to 1944 were demolished during that year, and two houses previously condemned were vacated during 1944.

Details of housing inspection and repairs required to be done during 1944 will be found in the table in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

The following table is self-explanatory.

**TABLE 12.**  
**HOUSING ACTIVITIES DURING 1944.**

No. of Houses Inspected.			No. of Visits made.		
Under Housing Act.	Under Public Health Act (Minor defects)	Total	Under Housing Act.	Under Public Health Act.	Total
348	894	1,242	473	1,313	1,786

  

Informal Notices.		Statutory Notices.	
No. issued.	No. completed.	No. issued.	No. completed.
107	93	355	324

## PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No unusual incidence of Infectious Disease occurred during the year. Whooping Cough holds leading place with 154 notifications. It is disappointing to have still to report that no prophylactic measure has yet proved effective. Whooping Cough, and also Measles, are, in my opinion, a cause of much chronic ill-health. Quite apart from the dangerous complication of broncho-pneumonia, many children suffer from permanent chest damage and at the best one finds that very many children are run down and debilitated for long periods after recovery from the acute stages of the diseases. I find that a course of Ultra Violet irradiation frequently does much to restore to full health children convalescent from attacks of both Whooping Cough and Measles.

**Diphtheria.**—Notifications of Diphtheria remain low in total and it is interesting to note the shift in age incidence of notifications towards the older age groups. During the year, for example, only one case of Diphtheria occurred in a child of under five years. This, I think, can be attributed to the much greater degree of immunisation in the younger children and their greatly increased power of resistance as a result of this.

TABLE 13.

### CASES OF NOTIFIED INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS (EXCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS).

DISEASE	Under 1 yr.	1-2 yrs.	2-3 yrs.	3-4 yrs.	4-5 yrs.	5-10 yrs.	10-15 yrs.	15-20 yrs.	20-35 yrs.	35-45 yrs.	45-65 yrs.	Over 65 yrs.	Total.
Smallpox ..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ..	0	1	3	8	8	48	35	11	7	0	0	0	116
†Diphtheria ..	0	0	1	0	0	5	3	5	2	0	0	0	16
Typhoid Fever ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Pneumonia ..	1	1	0	2	1	2	4	1	2	8	3	5	30
Ophthalmia													
Neonatorum ..	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Erysipelas ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	7	7	18
Malaria ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Dysentery ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Measles ..	5	2	3	8	4	12	3	0	2	0	0	0	39
Whooping Cough ..	22	14	19	29	30	38	2	0	0	0	0	0	154
TOTALS ..	32	18	26	47	43	100	47	18	15	12	10	12	380

† 10 cases of suspected Diphtheria also notified, but proved "Negative."

### DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

Diphtheria Immunisation in the area has been maintained at a very high level. No drive has been undertaken as, in my opinion, results can best be obtained by constant personal endeavour on the



part of Medical Officers and staff, and I have, throughout the year, followed my customary practice of immunising children during their routine Clinic attendance. This method, I am sure, gives excellent results and increasing numbers of parents are accepting Immunisation as a logical routine procedure when their children approach or reach one year of age.

The percentages obtained are an eloquent testimony to the success of the methods employed. It will readily be appreciated that if, as is desirable, all children are immunised at one year, in due course the total child population will be immunised, and that there will, therefore, be no need for immunisation campaigns amongst school children. This state of affairs, I am thankful to say, is showing signs of coming about, and is reflected in the greatly decreased number of school children for whom immunisation has been necessary.

**TABLE 14.**  
**IMMUNISATION RECORDS, 1944.**

	1 to 5 years.	5 to 15 years.	Total.
Immunised in Clinics ..	383	24	407
Immunised by Own Doctors .. .. .	16	9	25
Percentage of Child population immunised as at 31st December, 1944 :—			
Birth to five years .. ..	75 per cent.		
Five to fifteen years .. ..	78 per cent.		

### TUBERCULOSIS.

Tuberculosis still takes its steady toll of victims, although the incidence is, I am thankful to say, showing no tendency to increase. A total of 31 new cases notified is exactly the same as last year, whilst the 21 new notifications of Respiratory disease show a slight decrease on the figures for 1943. There was, however, a considerable increase in the number of deaths from Tuberculosis. The two non-respiratory deaths were both due to Tubercular Meningitis.

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925 (relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the milk trade) or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 (relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis).



**TABLE 15.**  
**NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1944.**

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1-5 years ..	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5-15 years ..	3	2	1	0	0	2	0	0
15-25 years ..	5	2	1	2	1	3	0	1
25-35 years ..	3	3	2	3	3	0	0	1
35-45 years ..	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
45-55 years ..	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
55-65 years ..	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0
Over 65 years ..	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals ..	13	8	5	5	5	7	0	2

Of the fourteen deaths due to Tuberculosis, three were unnotified, giving a ratio of 1 in 4.66 of non-notified Tuberculosis deaths to total Tuberculosis deaths.

### INFESTATIONS.

Scabies continues to be endemic in the district, though the incidence is not alarming as a glance at the accompanying Table will show. It can now be most successfully treated with a minimum of inconvenience to the sufferer, but there is still often difficulty in persuading, not only the patient, but his contacts, to attend for treatment. Time and again experience shows that unless all members of the household are treated at the same time, a recurrence of the infestation is almost inevitable. On the other hand, when all members of the household are so treated, permanent success attends the treatment in 90 per cent. of instances.

During 1944, Scabies treatment was carried out at the Rothwell First Aid Post, but when this is closed down, as seems likely before long, new arrangements will have to be made for carrying on this work.

**TABLE 16.**  
**SCABIES TREATMENT.**

	1944		1943	
	Scabies cases treated.	Contacts treated.	Scabies cases treated.	Contacts treated.
Men .. .. .	38	17	34	16
Women .. .. .	69	22	52	40
Children (under 16 years) ..	117	22	114	30
Totals .. ..	224	61	200	86

Pediculosis capitis is not unduly prevalent except amongst the small "social problem" group. The Health Visitors are keenly alive to the need for ascertainment of verminous conditions in the homes which they visit and the relatively few cases which are encountered are brought to the Clinic for inspection, advice and, if necessary, treatment. Lethane Oil is used and nit combs are supplied on loan where necessary. There is no evidence that the condition is tending to spread or to become a serious menace to the welfare of the community.

Action was taken in one case during the year for the cleansing of a verminous person.

Once again, I cannot conclude this section without paying tribute to Mr. Wilson, the Senior Sanitary Inspector, and to the staff of the Health Department for the ready and able way in which they have discharged their duties at all times during the year. No matter has arisen which has not been promptly and expertly dealt with and it is gratifying to record that although many of the investigations carried out are of a delicate and personal nature, it has been very rare indeed that resentment has been aroused.

### ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

The number of admissions was almost the same as in the previous year, with a total of 157 cases as against last year's 168. Thirty-five Service cases were admitted and this again was a source of satisfaction both to myself and the staff, providing a variety and consequent increase of interest in the scope of work involved.

Needless to say it has not been possible to undertake any structural alterations at the Hospital during the year, and it would seem likely at the present moment that several years must elapse before the question of increased cubicle accommodation can be tackled. This provision would, however, enormously expand the potentialities of the Hospital and would in my opinion, render it adequate and suitable to admit cases from a much wider area and from a much larger population than that which it at present serves.

**TABLE 17.**  
**Showing particulars of cases of Admission and Discharge**  
**(Civilian) during 1944.**

Disease.	Admissions			Discharges		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	40	53	93	35	55	90
Diphtheria .. .. .	14	12	26†	14	12	26
Chicken Pox .. .. .	2	0	2*	2	0	2
Tuberculous Meningitis ..	0	1	1	0	0	0
TOTALS ..	56	66	122	51	67	118

† Of the above 26 cases of Diphtheria, 10 were proved "Negative."

\* London evacuees admitted to Hospital on reception in this area.

TABLE 17a.

Showing Particulars of Admission and Discharge of Members of H.M. Forces, during 1944.

Disease	Admissions			Discharges		
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total
Measles .. .. .	2	1	3	2	1	3
Rubella .. .. .	3	1	4	3	1	4
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	9	1	10	8	1	9
Chicken Pox .. .. .	4	0	4	4	0	4
Meningitis.. .. .	1	0	1	1	0	1
Mumps .. .. .	2	4	6	2	2	4
Whooping Cough .. .. .	1	0	1	1	0	1
Diphtheria .. .. .	5	0	5	5	0	5
Glandular Fever .. .. .	0	1	1	0	2	2
Streptococcal Throat .. .. .	0	0	0	1	1	2
TOTALS .. .. .	27	8	35	27	8	35

**Mortality Rate.**—Two deaths occurred during the year, one due to a toxic Diphtheria in an unimmunised child, and the other due to Tuberculous Meningitis. This latter patient was moribund on arrival and died within a few hours of admission. This gives a Hospital Death Rate of 1·7 per 100 patients discharged.

Staffing difficulties have been particularly acute amongst the domestic staff. This trend is nation-wide and is a matter of great concern to those responsible for the running of hospitals. The difficulties were, to some extent, met by the employment of part time and daily workers. This state of affairs is by no means ideal, but at least it has been possible to keep the hospital functioning, and to avoid the necessity for closing down any part of it.

Thanks are due to the Matron for the cheerfulness and adaptability with which she has tackled all problems, and her readiness to undertake any duties, or temporarily to fill any gap, caused by staffing shortages.

In conclusion, I should like again to convey to the Chairman and Members of the Council, and, in particular, to the Chairmen and Members of the Health, Maternity and Child Welfare, and Isolation Hospital Committees, my thanks for the unfailing support they have given me during the year under review.

I beg to remain, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

A. L. TAYLOR,

Medical Officer of Health,



# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## Senior Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent, for the year 1944.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Rothwell Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I now beg to present for your consideration and information, my Report on the work of the Health and Cleansing Departments for the year ended December 31st, 1944, this being my thirteenth Annual Report.

Although at the time of writing, the country is again at peace, the Report covers what we know now to be the last full year of war time, during which time we suffered, as we had done previously, from shortages of staff and an increased amount of work not altogether associated with the normal duties of health and cleansing. We were again spared the more immediate horrors of war in the shape of aerial attack, although as in previous years we were in a state of preparedness should this have been necessary. The shortages of available labour and of materials did make itself felt even more than in previous years, but in spite of this I am happy to be able to report that no serious hold-up, either in the actual requirements of the Department or in the work which, as the result of our investigations was required to be done, was experienced.

I told you in my last Report that my duties as Billeting Officer and A.R.P. Officer were finished, which certainly helped in the running of the two departments, but in the early part of the year, a special Billeting Scheme for the reception of evacuees from London and the Southern Counties was put into operation and for a time most of the staff of the Health Department were transferred to this very necessary work.

**Housing.**—The work in this section has been particularly mundane and uninteresting, being confined almost entirely to the repair of the worst defects in the houses which we inspected or were called on to visit. The amount of work, as shown by the statistical form appended, again stands comparison in view of the fact that, including myself, there were only two visiting Inspectors. Last year, as I said in my Annual Report, we were beginning to picture



to ourselves what would be required post-war, and I promised a more definite statement in this Report. This I am now able to give you, and although it is theoretical rather than practical, being based on my own fairly intimate knowledge of the district and scrutiny of maps and other documents in my possession, it is concrete from the fact that certain areas are listed, and certain houses are named. In round figures, 1,500 houses are known to be worthy of the most careful and exacting scrutiny when we embark upon real, whole-hearted Slum Clearance. I wish I could say to you that it was the intention to implement this preliminary report by representing all, or a definite part of these 1,500 houses within a specified period, but this I am unfortunately not able to do, depending, as it does, on so many factors. In the first place, houses themselves have suffered badly in various parts of the country through bombardment by the enemy, and this adds a further load to the already terrific one of the slums which existed pre-war, and it seems to me reasonable to assume that these houses, many of them of a good type, will need to be repaired or replaced before we can get down to actual slum clearance, and as in Rothwell not a single house has been damaged as the result of enemy action, it is only fair to assume that Rothwell will be a long way down the list when housing proposals are evolved regarding the whole country. Much as I regret to say it, I feel in my own mind, that many of the slum houses in Rothwell are destined to be with us for a considerable period yet because, look at it as you may, it is obviously better to have a poor house to live in than none at all.

However, in spite of this doleful statement, the fact remains that, in my opinion, there are 1,500 houses in Rothwell which require inspection from a slum clearance point of view and I would here like to assure my Committee and the Council that at the word "Go" we will do all that is humanly possible so far as the Health Department is concerned to prevent these undesirable houses being occupied for one day longer than is necessary.

The statement given below shows statistically the way in which the inspections and work of 1944 were divided up.

No. of dwelling houses inspected under the Housing Acts ..	348
Total number of inspections made under Public Health and Housing Acts .. .. .	1,825
No. of Preliminary Notices served .. .. .	107
No. of Ashpits converted .. .. .	152
No. of Dustbins provided in lieu of Ashpits .. .. .	301
No. of Notices complied with during 1944 .. .. .	62
No. of Legal Notices (Housing) served under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 .. .. .	7
No. of the above Notices complied with .. .. .	3
No. of Legal Notices (Public Health) served .. .. .	329
No. of above Notices complied with .. .. .	277

**Nuisances.**—During 1944, 254 complaints were received regarding nuisances arising from stopped drains, choked gullies and the like, which were dealt with in the customary way, all being cleared during the currency of the year.

**Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures.**—The perennial trouble with tents, vans and sheds, which has caused much worry in the past, has been cleared up by the action which the Council took in 1942 and 1943, and no further action was necessary nor was any trouble caused. Nomadic caravan dwellers do occasionally come to rest within the confines of this area, but have generally left by the time we hear about them.

**Verminous Persons.**—An unusual occurrence, in this district at any rate, was the report of a verminous person, inhabiting nocturnally lavatories, public and otherwise, air-raid shelters and such places which are not closed at night. A court Order was obtained committing the man to Institution for cleansing for three months, the maximum period allowed under the Public Health Act, and after a hectic search the culprit was apprehended and taken for cleansing. It seems that the comforts and facilities offered by the Institution were more appealing than the life offered outside and the man in question has never since left the Institution, a very desirable state both from his and the public's point of view.

Under this heading it may be of interest to record that, during the currency of the year, three other people, two elderly women and one elderly man, were removed to Institutions for their own benefit. These removals were effected by persuasion on my own part, aided, in certain cases, by the medical practitioner. The persons themselves lived alone and were entirely incapable of maintaining themselves and their houses in a reasonable state of cleanliness.

**Refuse Collection and Disposal.**—The work of Refuse Collection was, during the main part of the year, performed by three Karrier Bantam Collectors and three horses and carts. The staffing was as in previous war years, and included a fair proportion of aged, temporary men.

During the summer months when the work was naturally lighter, the horses and carts were loaned to the Council's War Agricultural Department, this action serving two purposes, that of helping the country's food production and secondly reducing the Departmental costs. Unfortunately, however, from this Department's point of view, the War Agricultural Department found it impracticable to return the horses at the time when we wanted them, as they were engaged in lifting the potato crop, and although some attempt was made to relieve the situation by the loan, part-time, of a motor wagon from that Department, the work fell very much



behind and the position with regard to refuse removal in the latter months of the year was the worst that it has ever been in my experience, and more complaints were made than I have ever known before. Even so, the service given was comparable with many neighbouring districts, but it is a psychological fact that ratepayers are very quick to complain about any reduction in their particular service, without having regard to what the general service of the neighbourhood may be.

The work of cesspool emptying and street gully emptying was performed by the Karrier Bantam Cesspool machine.

The land at the Pastures, which has been used for many years as a controlled tip, was during the year, almost filled up and arrangements were made to secure a quarry in an adjacent part of the district to act as a substitute. Special works were needed to make an access road into the bottom and to deal with the water which was present in the quarry, but when this was completed a very suitable and useful tip was formed which will serve for many years.

Much as I would like to see the refuse of this district disposed of by incineration or salvage and incineration, I do not think that this is likely to be practicable, having regard to the scattered type of the area. The undoubted advantages of this hygienic method of disposal would be out-weighed by the terrific increase in disposal costs. There are, in the district, four controlled tips where the majority of the refuse is disposed of, the exceptions being odd quantities to farmers and greenhouse men for special purposes. The tips were, on the whole, maintained without any complaint as to nuisance arising from them, but during the summer one tip, unfortunately, from our point of view, near houses and the main road, became infested with crickets, and although the immediate complaint was dealt with by treatment of the tip, I am afraid that that this will recur next year, as crickets, once established, are difficult to remove entirely.

**Salvage.**—Our work of salvage collection was maintained during the year, although, with the exception of food scraps, the returns have been generally below the standard set by the Salvage Department of the Ministry of Supply, the reason being, as I have stated before, due to the semi-rural character of the district. During the year the direction requiring salvage of tins was withdrawn, for reasons which the Ministry considered to be adequate, and this had an immediately deleterious effect upon salvage generally, the reason again being psychological. Ratepayers were I found, during the war years, happy to collect tins, which were bulky and made a good show, and, incidentally, the other smaller, though nonetheless valuable, items of salvage, but once tins could be disposed of legally into the refuse bin, the urge to save the smaller items disappeared and I am quite certain that the removal of the direction



to salvage ferreous metals has reduced the amount of salvage collected generally.

The heap of tins which had collected at our Central Depot during 1943, together with the collections in the early part of 1944, was removed about the middle of the year, being sold to a neighbouring Authority, who have a power baling press.

Kitchen waste, however, has continued to be the best individual item and we still have 288 bins deposited in various parts of the district from which a collection is made by special vehicle every week, the contents being transported under direction to Leeds Corporation, where they are processed. We still continue to bring back a certain amount of processed food which we sell to individual pig and poultry keepers in the area. Although this is rather time occupying, it does provide a return load and the slight profit which we are allowed to make on the sale helps in the reduction of the general refuse removal costs.

Bonus was paid to workmen for salvage collection during the whole of 1944, and a total of £134 1s. 11d. was paid to the workmen of the Department.

**TABLE SHOWING WEIGHT AND VALUE OF MATERIALS SALVAGED.**

Material.	Weight.				Income.		
	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.	£	s.	d.
Baled Papers .. ..	64	17	2	0	436	10	3
Unbaled Paper .. ..		8	1	7	3	16	11
Unbaled Tins .. ..	26	14	1	0	12	16	6
Non-ferrous Metals ..		11	2	0	18	0	3
Textiles .. ..	2	19	2	12	52	16	4
Rubber .. ..	2	3	1	0	5	8	1
Food Scraps .. ..	206	1	2	0	309	2	4
Bones .. ..	2	10	1	2	11	19	6
Bottles and Jars ..	1,707	dozen	and	4	41	7	11
Total ..					£891	18	1

**Sanitary Conveniences.**—The work of conversion received an unexpected fillip during the year by the voluntary conversion of 15 waste water closets to W.C.s, the Council paying half cost as provided by the Public Health Act. During the year also, 301 dustbins were provided in replacement of 152 ashpits.

**Milk and Dairies.**—Sampling of milk for resazurin test was continued during the year up to about October, when the staff of the Leeds University Advisory Board was augmented to such an extent that they were able to take their own samples. In all 192 samples were taken.

A small number of cowshed inspections were made during the year, but owing to shortage of Staff, these were not anything like our accustomed number. It is hoped, post-war, to resume this routine inspection.

No. of persons registered as Retail Purveyors of Milk ..	80
No. of Cowkeepers .. .. .	30
No. of premises registered as Dairies .. .. .	38
No. of Accredited Milk Licences .. .. .	22
No. of Supplementary Licences under the Milk (Special Designations) Order .. .. .	6

**Meat and Food Inspection and Control.**—Centralised slaughtering still removes the majority of meat inspection from this District, but, during the year, a few pigs were slaughtered privately and 33 visits were paid for the purpose of inspecting 49 carcasses of pork.

The inspection of food of various types has continued mostly on complaint, and, during the year, a total weight of 1,270 lbs. of meat and foods of various descriptions was inspected and condemned, being used for food salvage or destroyed if this was not fit for food salvage. The details are as follows:—

Pork and bacon .. .. .	530 lbs.
Fish .. .. .	108 lbs.
Cereals .. .. .	318 lbs.
Tinned and pre-packed foods ..	213 lbs.
Margarine .. .. .	101 lbs.

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1,270 lbs.

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In addition, 17 dozen eggs were found on inspection to be unfit for human consumption.

**Water Sampling.**—The water supply is, as aforetime, drawn from water undertakings maintained by larger Authorities in the neighbourhood, and was sampled at various times during the year. This routine sampling, instituted as a war-time measure has been such a useful check that it is probable that it will be carried on for all time. During the year, 13 chemical and 14 bacteriological samples were taken. All the chemical samples were satisfactory, but two bacteriological were found to be questionable and were re-checked, being satisfactory.

During the year a well, serving a group of four houses in a remote part of the district, was closed in anticipation of the houses being closed and the water was, meantime, supplied from the Council's main, being delivered by motor vehicle.

**Petroleum.**—During 1944, 30 Licences were issued to store 2,091,250 gallons of petroleum spirit in this area, the stores all being maintained in a satisfactory manner. During the war period

the Council requisitioned as an emergency measure, five 500 gallon tanks in various parts of the district, which were stocked with petrol and maintained in that condition to provide a reserve against national shortage due to enemy action, or transport difficulties. Fortunately, however, these reserves were never required and on the instructions of the Ministry of Fuel and Power the tanks were de-requisitioned and the stocks of petrol uplifted and returned to the Pool Board.

**Disinfection and Disinfestation.**—The work under this heading has been remarkably small during the year under review. The reasons for this are, firstly, that routine disinfection is not normally carried out after the removal of cases of Scarlet Fever unless special circumstances warrant it, and, secondly, disinfestation work has not been so heavy of late, due to the fact that for some reason, probably that of war-time conditions, complaints are not so frequently received, and for the same reason, routine inspections which occasionally discover such infestations, are not now normally made. The total, therefore, is less than in previous years, the details of which are given below:—

16	Disinfections of Houses after removal of cases of Infectious Disease.
1	Disinfection of empty house.
20	Disinfestations of houses for vermin.
3	Disinfections of houses after death of one of the inmates.
—	
40	Total.
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The practice of disinfecting empty houses as a health and precautionary measure at the request of the new tenant is still performed by the Council without charge. Towards the end of the year, a report was received from a large works in this area stating that bed bugs had been found in the works. A thorough investigation ensued, but we were not able to find any bugs at all, which was fortunate from everyone's point of view, as the works management felt that had such an occurrence been proved, it would probably have resulted in an entire upheaval of the workpeople.

**Smoke Abatement.**—Since the beginning of the war, smoke abatement as such, has been a thing of the past. The West Riding Regional Smoke Abatement Committee has, however never ceased to function, and I have had the honour of representing the Council this year, as indeed in all the war years. Good work has been done by formulating plans for post-war smoke abatement procedure and in future reports I hope to be able to show you precisely to what ends our energies have been directed.



**Public Conveniences.**—These useful amenities, which fall within the purview of my duties as regards control and maintenance, have been maintained during the year, but the amount of damage which has been done has been considerable. The reason for this is, I think, lack of parental control, which has resulted in the culprits who, I am sure, are boys of 15 to 18 years of age (although none have ever been apprehended) having a free hand to do such damage. I am not at all sure that it would not be cheaper to remove the coin locks from the doors altogether, as it is these which are almost always damaged and which are difficult and expensive to replace.

**Mortuaries.**—The Council have, within the area, three mortuaries for ordinary civil use, for the maintenance and control of which I am responsible. These have been maintained in a satisfactory condition throughout the year, and have acted also as reserves for the war-time Mortuary which the Council were required to provide and maintain. The latter mortuary was closed on December 31st, 1944, having been maintained in a state of preparedness for some five years, but never having had to be used. Of this war-time mortuary I was the appointed Superintendent and, somewhat belatedly, July of 1944, to be precise, a course for the instruction of such superintendents was arranged, and which I attended.

**Sewers.**—In a district of this description, which is affected almost throughout by mining subsidence, it is apparent that the sewers must suffer. The main trunk sewer through the Rothwell Park I have commented about in previous reports, but during the year certain other branch sewers were found to become adversely affected by the sinking of the land. No action was taken other than that of repairing or remedying temporarily the worst defects, but post-war plans of the Council will have to include consideration of these main sewers.

**Rats.**—Rats and the damage they do have almost become a national by-word, and the Ministry of Food, through their Rodent Division, have spent much time and money in bringing the latest forms of elimination of these pests to our notice. The Council was placed under direction, in the early part of the year, to bait all sewers in the area to remove the rats, which we were informed were bound to be there. This was contrary to my knowledge and based on the experience of a number of years of sewer investigation, but it was not until test baiting had been carried out under the Ministry's supervision, that I was able to prove that my earlier assertions were actual facts. The direction was then withdrawn, which saved this Council a considerable amount of money and my department an enormous amount of time. We have continued, however, to give advice and assistance in the work of rat destruction and, during the year, 52 premises were visited and treated. None

of the infestations were of a major character, but the removal of the rats undoubtedly was necessary.

It would not be fitting that I should close this, my Thirteenth Report, without recording my oft-reiterated, but nevertheless sincere, appreciation of the help and advice of the Medical Officer of Health, and of the loyalty, assistance and co-operation of the Staff and the interest and support of the Health Committee and Council.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. WILSON.

Rothwell, 1945.









